

# Lawyers Demurrer,

## TO THE

# ADDRESSES

## IN FASHION.

## OR, THE

Several DECLARATIONS and ORDERS  
of the Honourable Societies of the *Middle-Temple*, and  
*Grays Inn*, lately made in Relation to that Affair.

*The Transactions at the Middle-Temple concerning an Address lately Proposed to be made to His Majesty from thence, June the 18th; 1681.*

SOME Gentlemen of the *Middle-Temple* did some time since set on foot a design of an *Address*; and having agreed the *Form* of it at several meetings at a *Tavern*, upon *Thursday* last the Promoters of it being in number *Sixty-five*, (whereof by far the greatest part were young Gentlemen newly come to the House) brought it into the *Common-Hall*, and proposed the passing of it there as the *Act* of the Society; but it not meeting with the desired reception, they retired to the *Tavern*, leaving about *Seventy-two* of the *Bar-risters*, and a great number of the Students in the *Hall*; and after some time a Gentleman came from them to inform the Society that the Gentlemen at the *Devil-Tavern* had agreed upon an *Address*, and resolved upon one of their number to carry it to *Windſor*; but the Gentlemen assembled in the *Hall* proceeded to consider the Proceedings of the *Addressers*, and after about two hours debate thereof, they agreed upon a *Declaration* relating to it, and appointed some of their number to present it the day following to the *Bench*; which being accordingly done, after the debate thereof, it produced the following Orders, *viz.*

*Ad Parliamentum centum Junii 17mo, 1681.*

Resolved by all the Masters of the Bench with one consent, That if any persons, members of this Society, do take upon them to call a General

*Assembly* in this House in Term-time without the leave of the Masters of the Bench, 'tis an *Act* unwarrantable, and contrary to the Orders and Government of this Society.

Resolved, That those Members of this Society that took upon them to call a General Assembly of the Gentlemen of this House to meet in the Hall yesterday, are guilty of the breach of the Orders and Government of this House.

Resolved, That the Barristers and Gentlemen of this House who opposed the disorderly and irregular proceedings of the Assembly which met in the Hall yesterday, and who disavowed the same, and declar'd their dissent thereunto, have the Thanks of the Masters of the Bench for so doing. And their Masterſhips do concur with the said Barristers and Gentlemen in every part of the Declaration which they then made, and have since delivered in writing to their Masterſhips.

Which Declaration as it was Subscribed by *Seventy-two* Barristers, and a great number of Gentlemen under the Bar, follows in these words, *viz.*

*Jovis 16. Junii 1681.*

We the Barristers and Gentlemen of the *Middle-Temple* being Assembled in the *Middle-Temple Hall*, Do declare, That there has been no Parliament of this Society regularly summon'd or assembled this day, nor that the Gentlemen of this Society have this day consented to any *Address*, or other *Act* whatsoever (except what is here declared), and therefore if any persons whatsoever shall pretend that any *Address* or other *Act* was this day made or done by the consent of this Society, the same is altogether false and scandalous, and contrary to the sense of the Barristers and Gentlemen of the *Middle-Temple*.

*The Proceedings at Grays-Inn touching the Address pretended from some Members of that Society, June 1681.*

**I**T having been nois'd abroad about the beginning of the last week, that some Gentlemen of Grays-Inn were endeavouring to procure hands to an Address by way of Thanks to his Majesty for his late Declaration, which they intended to offer to the Bench for their Approbation and Concurrence; a great company of Gentlemen thereupon met in the Hall on Tuesday last at Noon, to withstand and oppose such a design, in case they should find any to proceed in it. Which though it startled those who were the promoters of the said Address, yet apprehending themselves so far engaged that they could not handiromely retreat, they applied themselves to the Bench, which is the Governing part of the Society, for a Pension, which is in some respect the same that a Parliament is in the Temple. But the Bench upon mature deliberation, hurbly conceiving that the matters which the Address related unto, no ways belong'd unto them to judge of, or pronounce concerning it, did unanimously refuse to grant a Pension in order to any such purpose. Yet those who were the favourers of the Address instead of being discouraged by the entertainment which they met with from the Bench, continuing not only to make a party in favour of what they intended, but giving out that they would cause the Bell to Ring for Assembling those together that were inclined to Subscribe it, gave occasion to the Gentlemen of the Bar-Mess on Wednesday at Noon, to desire the Bench that nothing relating to the Society might be received but what was according to the Rules and Orders of the House arrived with them through their hands. Which the Bench readily agreed unto, as also to some other things, by way of request were represented unto them, as appears by the Order of the Bench hereunto subjoined. There being no other regular way then left for the Promoters of the Address to compass the Concurrence of the Society, but by applying themselves to those of the Bar-Mess, they accordingly made a faint tender of the Paper unto them, which they were desirous to have past under that name; but whereas at the same season they refused to allow those Gentlemen time or liberty to consider it, or examine the tendency of it, they as became persons of Wisdom and Justice instead of interesting themselves to hand or recommend it to the Bench, disclaim'd having any thing to do with it. All men acquainted with this affair, besides such as were too far imbarckt to withdraw, thought that hereby there was an issue put to that design; but it appears since, that what they could not procure to be the Act of

the Society, they carried on as their own. Nor doth the Society further concern themselves about it or them, save only to let the World know, that all the Bench (save Sir William Scroggs alone) two parts of three of the Barristers that are now in Town, and the Majority of the Students, refused the giving the least countenance unto it, being perswaded through the knowledg which they have of the Laws, that it was not a matter any ways proper for them to meddle with.

The before-mentioned Order of the Bench of the Society of Grays-Inn, is as follows.

*Upon the Complaint of many of the ancient Barristers and Members of this Society made at this Pension, That several Gentlemen of this Society, some of whom seldom appear in Commons, pay no Duties to, and decline the Exercises of the House, and others have taken Military Employments upon them, and others without Gowns, and with Swords for these two days last past, have in a tumultuous manner assembled themselves in the Common-Hall of this Society (sitting the Bench there) and in an Irregular and disorderly way encompassed the Bench, and by getting upon the Cupboard and Tables in the said Hall, with loud Acclamations, and flinging up their Hats, did very much disturb the peace, and infringe the ancient good Government of this Society, which if not prevented may prove of dangerous consequence; and therefore did pray that this Pension would take into their Consideration, and provide some way to redress the same for the future. This Pension being greatly sensible of the same, and taking themselves obliged to do their duties therein, do unanimously declare, That if any person or persons members of this Society, shall and do at any time hereafter promote or abet any Tumult, Insurrection, or Outragious Assembly contrary to the peace, order, and good Government of this Society, such persons shall and will be justly esteemed unfit and unworthy to be and continue members of this Society, and that they will proceed against them accordingly. And for the further preservation of the peace and quiet of this Society, it is ordered that for the future no Applications upon any publick matter whatsoever be made to the Bench sitting in the Hall from any Members of this Society, but by the Bar-Mess, the same being according to the ancient custom and usage of the House, and that this Order and Declaration be publicly screened once in every Term, as in like Cases.*

As for Lincolns-Inn, there has been none so hardy as to propose any such Address; and when it was set on foot in the Inner-Temple, it was rejected: so that we have the Sentiments of all the Inns of Court against it, whose judgments are certainly as valuable in this case as any of the Addressors.